

**INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

COMMITTEE: Health Services Committee

RECORDER: Sheila Wolfe **DATE:** March 21, 2002

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT: Jean Brunelli, Arleen Downing M.D., Mary Lu Hickman, M.D., Julie Kingsley, Dwight Lee M.D., Mara McGrath, Peter Michael Miller M.D., Hallie Morrow M.D, Ivette Pena M.D.

GUESTS: Juno Duenas, Nancy Grosz Sager, Vickie Allen, Toni Gonzales and Al Millan

STAFF: Sheila Wolfe, WestEd/CPEI

DDS LIAISONS: Mary Lu Hickman, M.D.

ABSENT: Bonnie Bear, Nancy Lee, Robin Millar, and Terrence Williams

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT POINTS AND ACTIONS CONSIDERED

I. Agenda Review:

The agenda was presented to the members of the committee and the following items were added:

- 1) Input/Ideas and possible issues for continuous improvement
- 2) Input on annual report
- 3) Presentation from Family Voices of California
- 4) Review of CASHA guidelines – Preferred Practices for Speech Language Pathologists _
- 5) Request for support of CASHA bill -SB/379

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes were reviewed and approved.

III. Committee Tasks and Activities

- A. Review of HSC Recommendations for Vision Screenings for Children Referred to and/or Enrolled in Early Start** - Dr. Downing presented the latest draft of the recommendations that she and Dr.'s Miller and Morrow had completed, refined and re-organized. Dr. Miller reviewed the new draft to highlight salient points and the rationale for the recommendations.

Key Points from Committee Discussion Regarding Vision Screening/Assessment Recommendations:

- Recommendations regarding funding need to be clear so that it does not appear or suggest that parents have to automatically use their insurance to cover the screening/ assessment. Vision screening/assessment should be noted as a part of regular health care. If it's not, the family should be informed that they have a choice to use their insurance or not. Early Start services, including vision screening and assessment, can be covered through Early Start funding.
- For clarity, all acronyms should be explained in these recommendations.
- Paper and recommendations should clarify that the Primary Health Care Provider (PHCP) should be responsible for vision screening/assessment (VS/A) as a core part of primary health care. However, if the PHCP cannot do this within the initial assessment and IFSP timeline, others recommended, and qualified, could do the screening/assessment so that the initial IFSP is not held up/delayed. The physician or other PCHP then still needs to be involved in the follow-up.
- While the committee cannot recommend that the same or "standard" form be required or used by all agencies and providers, it can recommend the core components to be included in any VS/A and related reporting form. Recommendations in this area could also be disseminated with samples of possible forms and formats as a guide for the S/A and for reporting.
- Key components of any VS/A need to be the same for all "qualified" personnel
- Training aspects and overall training needs are important aspects of this document
- Questions and concerns from past versions and meetings are to be reviewed to ensure that all issues regarding VS/A are covered in preparation for an ICC action item

Next Steps in Preparing the White Paper and Recommendations as an ICC Action Item:

1. Group consensus was that the paper and action item would include all of the recommendations as a comprehensive perspective on the whole topic.
2. Recommendations are to be consistent with the law, education code and Early Start regulations.
3. Dr. Miller will work directly on computerized version to incorporate changes as discussed by the group.
4. Dr. Downing, Dr. Miller and Sheila Wolfe will prepare action item for May meeting

B. Presentation - Family Voices of California – By Juno Duenas

The overall philosophy, goals, focus and supporters of Family Voices were discussed (see attached). Some of the current projects of Family Voices include the

1. California website: www.familyvoicesofca.org
2. List serve: fvcafamadv@yahoo.com
3. Your Voice Counts Survey
4. Managed Care Survey
5. Health Information Center
6. “We Can Do It” - Priorities
7. Telehealth Project
8. Health Care Connections Manual – A guide for families of children with special health care needs
9. California Children’s Services (CCS) Family Centered Materials Project
10. Family Voices Leadership Project
11. Parent Health Liaison Project

Discussion Highlights:

- Family Voices has contributed significantly to the field – information and support for both parents and professionals
- There continues to be a parent representative at CCS/Children’s Medical Services (CMS) and Family Voices, and it is advantageous to have a parent support position directly in the state agency. Family Voices is also working with CSS/CMS to establish a possible contract with Family Voices for more support in this area.
- Family Voices and the FRC/N’s are very connected to interagency work and the support needed in the field and agencies. Sometimes FRC/N’s personnel are even assigned directly to specific agencies, i.e. regional centers.
- The new Parent Health Liaison Project Manual includes: indicators of family-centered practices; a list of FRC development considerations; the ASK competencies for family support personnel; sample forms and protocols; chapters on working with varied agencies and information on training and meeting facilitation skills.
- New projects include planning for an evaluation of the Family Care Liaison project and an evaluation of the FRC/N skills and outcomes.
- Family Voices is very involved in support for families of children with special health care needs. They define children with health care needs as “those who have or are at risk for chronic, physical, developmental behavior or emotional conditions and who also require special health care and related services.”
- It is clearly important that families be included in all levels of service delivery!

C. Other/New Presentation and Discussion Items:

1. Dr. Hickman introduced the Speech Language Pathologist's (SLP) Preferred Practice Guidelines from the California Speech & Hearing Association and other materials from the association and requested that committee members read documents for discussion for May meeting. She also presented SB 1379 and the fact sheet regarding SLP's involvement in endoscopic evaluation for voice and swallowing disorders. This is a clean-up bill and will also be discussed in May.
2. Review of Early Start annual report summary of HSC accomplishments 7/00-7/01
The HSC members were asked to review and make revisions to the overview to assist in accurately reflecting the focus and accomplishments of the HSC during this period of time. It was suggested that the revisions from committee members be sent directly to Cheryl Holden at the California Dept. of Developmental Services/Early Start and that the introduction be revised to read:

The HSC addresses issues pertaining to infants and toddlers with health and developmental needs (and their families) to ensure that all young children:

- *receive health and developmental screenings to identify needs*
- *receive appropriate referrals to needed specialists, agencies and special programs, including Early Start*
- *receive timely intervention and services for their health and developmental needs as a part of their initial and on-going IFSP's*

During this reporting period, the HSC

- *Addressed strategies to integrate health status into evaluation, assessment, IFSP development and early intervention service delivery*
- *Developed dissemination strategies for the technical assistance documents "Children with Chronic Illness or Fragile Health Conditions: A Clarification of Eligibility"*
- *Discussed strategies and models to support appropriate hearing and vision screening/assessments*
- *Reviewed recommendations for the screening and diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorders*

3. Follow up on New Jersey materials and videos on Autism and Early Intervention -
Dr. Hickman provided an overview and review of the materials packet and how other committees and states had been using the packet. It appears that not everyone had seen the complete video/materials but the HSC was interested on

how it might be used in California. The HSC was also interested in working Public Awareness Committee (PAC) on outreach materials for physicians and other PHCP's as well as on activities for overall outreach to this population and not only those related to Autism.

It was suggested that the PAC consider why physicians aren't doing what is needed and all the ways that can be addressed. Several committee members cited other findings and studies in this area for consideration. Dr. Downing noted that the Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC) is also working California Managed Care to reach out to physicians (CAL Optima) and have been working with group to determine what is needed. Issues and feedback show that physicians who do refer and coordinate, often don't get any feedback and that doesn't reinforce/reward those who do what is needed. This should be considered in outreach to service providers who work with physicians and other health care providers.

Next Steps and Recommendations Regarding New Jersey Materials on Autism and Other Outreach Materials and Strategies for Physicians:

1. Schedule joint meeting with PAC regarding New Jersey materials on autism and other materials and strategies for outreach to physicians and other PHCP's
2. Dr. Miller agreed to write up key points on what is needed from contacts with other physicians for discussion at next meeting
3. Mara McGrath will bring referral form and materials currently used with Primary Health Providers through the FRC/N's for outreach to physicians.
4. Dr. Pena noted the need to reach out to community physicians not just those associated with the American Academy of Pediatrics and would like to explore new strategies in this area
5. HSC to consider what can be done to ensure that all children have a "medical home" and are seen in a coordinated manner
6. HSC and PAC to advise/consider what can be done to expand coordination and outreach to physicians and other health care providers

4. Input Regarding Visit from OSEP to include information and discussion on what other states do regarding:

- screening and assessment for vision and hearing
- assessing health status on initial and follow-up IFSP's

Items for Next and/or Future Meetings

1. Review and discussion of new “preferred practice guidelines for SLP’s working with to infants/toddlers and their families. CASHA representative to come to next HSC meeting to discuss this with the committee. HSC members to review material in preparation for next meeting. A June meeting may also be considered for possible support by the whole ICC.
2. Plan joint meeting between HSC and PAC to discuss outreach materials and strategies for involvement of physicians and other PHCP and HCP’s – including the New Jersey materials on autism.
3. Begin work on recommendations for hearing screening and assessment
4. Address new issues and concerns regarding the health status, health risks, nutrition factors and related health concerns for children with special health and developmental problems served in Early Start
5. Obtain an update on AB 2741 which proposes a new agency to coordinate services for children

State Interagency Coordinating Council

Health Services Committee
Arleen Downing, M.D., Chairperson

Agenda – May 30, 2002

1. Review of Paper and Recommendations/Action Item: Vision Screening/Assessment Guidelines
2. Review/Provide Feedback on Preferred Practice Patterns for Speech/Language Pathologists in Service Delivery to Infants and Toddlers and Their Families with representative from CASHA
3. Discussion with OSEP team regarding Health Services Committee issues and interests (vision & hearing screening/assessment; medical homes; health status and concerns within the IFSP process)
4. Outreach to physicians and other health care providers Materials and strategies to address– New Jersey packet review and plans for joint meeting with the ICC Public Awareness Committee
5. Agency and field updates
6. Proposed Agenda for June Meeting